

"OUR GOVERNMENT IS BASED
ON THE CONSENT OF THE
GOVERNED."
—THOMAS JEFFERSON.

THE BROAD AX

HEW TO THE LINE.

"THE QUALITY OF LIBERTY
WE POSSESS IS EQUAL TO THE
QUANTITY OF RESTRAINT
WE PUT UPON THE GOVERN-
MENT."
—DANIEL WEBSTER.

VOL. I.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, APRIL 18, 1896.

No. 34.

THE MANIFESTO.

DURING the past few days the public mind has been greatly agitated all over the young State of Utah, regarding the ecclesiastical proclamation emanating from the dominant church of this State, at the closing hours of its recent general conference. This so-called manifesto came so unexpected, like the explosion of a powder magazine, that the public mind was, for a time, in a state of confusion, and the most conservative men hesitated to pass an opinion, until calmer judgment prevailed. Owing to limited space, the Broad Ax cannot reproduce this remarkable address, nor can we analyze and review the same as we would like to; but we will say, that after a careful and impartial reading of the same, we are led to the conclusion that it is uncalled for; that it is harmful, and that it is un-American. We also think the issuance of such a "papal bull," was a great mistake on the part of the church authorities. Why such action was necessary at this or any other time, is not explained. It is well-known that the Mormon Church has been charged for years past with an itching desire to rule the State by indirection, through the edicts and influence of church leaders. This sentiment has existed, not only in Utah, but all over the Union. This fact was well known to these Mormon leaders, as shown by their own statements, when they declare they do not "desire to dictate to them as American citizens;" that they are "not seeking the union of church and state." Thus they file a disclaimer before the charge is made, as though they saw, in advance, the construction which would logically follow. Their plea after all, amount to a mere confession and avoidance. In the argument preceding the two specific declarations of the manifesto, there does not appear sufficient reasons for its promulgation, and we therefore must conclude that the document was wholly uncalled for, or that the purpose was hidden in the prelude, and was intended to administer a rebuke to certain persons by innuendo. In either case it was uncalled for and impolitic. In the first instance, it lays the church open to the serious charge of "church interference," being the very thing of all others it should avoid under the present conditions; and if the second position is correct, then it is cowardly and unfair, as the only true method of applying the discipline is by direct and specific charges against the individual complained of.

It leaves the impression on the public mind that it was intended as an *ex post facto* punishment for a gallant and brilliant gentleman, who is loved and respected by his fellow-citizens, from Cache to Washington counties; and who, yielding to the call of his party, stood for the high office of U. S. Senator last year, and who failed to "take counsel" from anyone save himself and the wishes of the people. All the explanations that can be offered, or general denials pleaded, can never disabuse the public mind of this conception of the object of the manifesto; therefore we say it is harmful, and we believe it was a grand mistake.

The position taken by these church leaders is absolutely un-American. The people are sovereign in these United States, and no

church, priest or body ecclesiastical, possesses the right to invade the province of the citizen. The temporal power of the Pope is denied on our shores. An American citizen must be free to follow any honorable and lawful pursuit, to get wealth, to marry and rear a family, to go and come when and where he pleases, and entertain such opinions of mind and conscience as he chooses. The American people also have the right to call to official position any one of their number, on the sound principle that "the office seeks the man." Oftentimes it happens that the people by their spontaneous action, call a certain man to official station without consulting his wishes or giving him a chance to "take counsel," and if so called it is his duty to obey. "Vox populi, vox Dei." But if the leaders of a church must first grant a dispensation before the citizen can accept a nomination, then the power and wishes of the people are nullified and interfered with. It follows also, that if a body of priests can dictate to any citizen whether or not he "accept any position political or otherwise," they can dictate how and for whom he should vote, and thus the individual liberty of the citizen rests in the hands of the church to be exercised only by the direction and counsel of his church superiors. Ecclesiastical dominion would then take the place of personal freedom, and a theocracy would supplant our boasted democracy. We do not believe it possible for any church or creed to exist in this country, that assumes to dictate to its members their course in political or temporal affairs. We have outlived such monstrous notions, and they can never be revived upon our shores. The age of superstition, and religious intolerance is fading away never to return. In this country we will never have a Spanish inquisition. Never again will we hang witches or drown Quakers, and never will the true American spirit submit to be interfered with by church power. This attempt is violative of the spirit of the Constitution and must not be tolerated.

We hail the brave man who can stand up against the pressure, and vindicate the prerogative of the citizen, as a typical American. We need many such strong men in a crisis like this. How admirably such men contrast with those who are now cringing and vassalating between the promptings of their own consciences and the demands of this hierarchy. Some of these men who last fall were the loudest in their asseverations, are now permitting themselves to stand as apologists for their own enslavement, and are recanting from the independence they a short time ago asserted.

We trust there will be men found in this great church, who will refuse to be bound by such fetters, and who will rise in their stations and maintain, that in this country, we should "render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's."

If the men who honestly dare to think and act for themselves will stand together, thousands of the Mormon people will follow them, and millions of the American people would approve of their course.

The future happiness of Utah depends upon the settlement of this momentous question. If we are

to live under the dictation of any church, then we say, tear down the stars and stripes; surrender our self-government, and let the sable banner of superstition and oppression wave in triumph over the happy homes of our hills and valleys, until the spirit of '76 is rekindled in the hearts of the people of Utah.

A. P. A. LEADER WAS BEATEN.

The House Passed the Appropriation for the Colored University at Washington.

WASHINGTON, April 2. — The House presented today the extraordinary spectacle of Republicans striking at the only appropriation made on behalf of the race of people who were emancipated by Lincoln, and of Southern Democrats posing as the friends and defenders of the emancipated blacks. For sixteen years Congress has appropriated money for the support of Howard University, a colored school in this district, which has a theological seminary connected with it. This year, because of the A. P. A. fight upon District appropriations for charities the Appropriation Committee dropped the Howard University item from the Sundry Civil bill, but an appropriation of \$32,000 for the university, with the proviso that no part of it should be used, either directly or indirectly, to support the theological department, was inserted yesterday.

Today Mr. Hainer, of Nebraska, who led the fight against the District charities, and is an A. P. A. leader on the floor, assailed the Howard University amendment with great vigor.

Mr. Hepburn, who followed Mr. Sayers, charged ill-treatment of the negro in the South by Southern whites, and was interrupted with denials and declarations of "That is false," "That is not true."

The House voted 129 to 105, to retain the appropriation. An analysis shows that 107 Republicans, 19 Democrats and 3 Populists voted for the amendment, that 55 Republicans, 47 Democrats and 3 Populists were against it. The Sundry Civil bill as amended was passed. —N. Y. World

No good reason can be assigned to these Republican negro haters for their prejudice against the race, except that many of us refuse to remain in a state of servitude to the g. o. p. They doubtless reason that the more education and intelligence the colored people possess, the more likely they are not to fall down and worship these self-constituted guardians of the negro. The more knowledge a negro has, the more likely he is to be a Democrat. Hence it is the policy of the Republicans to keep him in ignorance and apply the lash of the old ante-bellum days. Slowly but surely is the race advancing to the light, and all the efforts of the g. o. p. politician cannot retard his onward and upward march.

Colored baptizing at the First Baptist Church. Last Sunday the Rev. Geo. Maney opened the services by reading the third chapter of Matthew, and singing hymn 120. Prayer by Brother W. W. Taylor. Singing, hymn 150. Then Rev. Maney selected his text from Matthew, chapter 19 and 28, from which he delivered an able sermon. The church was well filled, and after he baptized the three candidates Mrs. Emma Hatfield, Mrs. Mattie Ketchell, Mrs. Eliza McAfee. On May the 8th, the Salt Lake Calvary Baptist Church will give an entertainment, called the May Tree. All are cordially invited to attend. Regular services on Sunday morning at 11 o'clock and 8 o'clock p. m.

R. E. MILLER.

DURING the past week we received from R. E. Miller, Esq., secretary of the Inter-Mountain Milling Co., a sack of R. E. Miller's High Patent Flour, which Mrs. Taylor has tried and she pronounces the same as being the equal of any flour now on the market, and she cheerfully recommends the R. E. Miller brand of High Patent flour to all good house-keepers.

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